MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 DECEMBER 1983

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir departed Washington 30 November, Jerusalem radio announced, after attending a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where he discussed the situation in Lebanon and agreed to a U.S. proposal calling for greater power for the Lebanese factions. However, Shamir said he "would not agree to changing one word" of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the radio noted.

Lebanon

President in Washington — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Washington 1 December. In an arrival statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Al-Jumayyil expressed confidence that the current "impasse" in Lebanon can be overcome within the framework of "American-Lebanese privileged relations" and reaffirmed that his government remains committed to President Reagan's peace initiative.

Military Developments — One French soldier was killed by sniper fire, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, and a French patrol came under RPG fire, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Lebanon quoted "security sources" as repeating warnings to the Multinational Force on possible attacks. The radio also said that "well over 600 Iranians" armed with medium-caliber weapons entered Beirut on 28 and 29 November and that the Iranian-supported Hezbollah has brought more surface-to-surface missiles and SAM-7's into the southern suburb.

PLO Affairs

The cease-fire between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was disrupted by intermittent clashes in various parts of Tripoli, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat met with a delegation from the Tripoli Coordination Committee to discuss arrangements for implementation of the Saudi-Syrian agreement.

In remarks broadcast by the radio, Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayi, a member of the delegation, described the meeting as "very positive," noting that 'Arafat promised to respect the security and safety of the city. 'Arafat informed the committee of his conditions to depart Tripoli, which include demands that Arab League or UN forces supervise implementation of the Damascus agreement and that evacuees leave for specified destinations under security guarantees.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the chairman of the Coordination Committee, announced in Damascus that he was awaiting replies from 'Arafat and Fatah dissident leader Nimr Salih concerning arrangements for the departure of Palestinian forces from Tripoli, the radio also reported.

Saudi King Fahd issued a Palestine solidarity day message, reported by SPA, in which he denounced Israel's "aggressive and brutal" practices but did not mention the rift within the PLO.

Morocco

King Hassan II appointed a new Cabinet, appointing Mohamed Karim Lamrani prime minister and replacing Maati Bouabid, who became a minister of state, Rabat radio reported. Abdelouahid Belkeziz was appointed minister of foreign affairs. M'hamed Boucetta remains in the Cabinet as a minister of state, although the radio did not say whether he will continue his role in foreign affairs.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Sarboland Welcomes Tambov Obkom First Secretary
LD30193i Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Supreme Soviet and first secretary of Tambov Obkom, arrived today in Kabul at the head of a delegation from the Union Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries at the invitation of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society to attend the ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the cooperation and good-neighborliness treaty between the USSR and Afghanistan.

At Kabul Airport the delegation was welcomed by 'Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; deputy chiefs of the Central Committee's International Relations Department; some members of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship organization; deputy chief of protocol from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the USSR ambassador in Kabul.

'Abdol Majid Sarboland, member of the PDPA Central Committee, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers this afternoon met Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Supreme Soviet and first secretary of Tambov Obkom, and his accompanying delegation. This meeting, which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, was attended also by some members of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity organization and the USSR ambassador in Kabul. At this meeting talks were held on further consolidation of the friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between Afghanistan and the USSR and the results of the work of the two countries' friendship societies.

Mangal, Delegation Depart for USSR Visit
LD301727 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee,left for the Soviet Union today to take part in the fifth anniversary celebration of the friendship, cooperation and good-neighborliness treaty between the DRA and the Soviet Union.

Nazar Mohammad, the minister of public works; 'Abdol Samad Qayumi, the minister of education and training; the deputy head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the deputy head of the DRA State Planning Committee and some heads of departments; and the Soviet minister plenipotentiary in Kabul were present at Kabul Airport to see off the vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Barialay, Delegation Depart for Cuba Visit
LD301732 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, candidate-member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, heading a party delegation, left for Cuba today for an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, candidate Politburo member and the minister of mines and industries; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the party Central Committee; deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; deputy heads of the party Department of International Relations; deputy head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the ambassador of Cuba in Kabul were present at Kabul Airport to see the delegation off.

Baghlan Province 'Rebels' Routed, Arrested
LD301749 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] A group of rebels — these treacherous elements to the homeland, people, and revolution — who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people in the (Kowhr Tepa) and Hasan Tal regions of Baghlan in Baghlan Province, were recently routed by the Baghlan tribal battalion, and a number of them were arrested.

A Baghlan Province Security force spokesman said that weapons, a large quantity of ammunition, as well as documents proving their links with counterrevolutionary groups abroad, were seized from the criminals by the security forces.

SPA: Soviet MIG-23 Shot Down in Ghowr Province
LD302023 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 30, SPA — A Soviet MIG-23 aircraft was shot down by the mujahideen anti-aircraft fire in Ghowr Province in central Afghanistan, semi-official news agency *PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL* (PPI) reported today

The agency said the MIG was on a bombing mission over mujahideen hideouts in Ghowr.

Meanwhile, the *AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS* (AIP) said the mujahideen ran over a communist post at Pul-e-surkhab [agency spelling], five [distance not specified] west of eastern Nangarhar Province on November 24. Seventeen Afghan militiamen were killed during the operation and four captured alive, it added.

Dhaka Curfew, Business Hours Announced

BK301635 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] An official announcement in Dhaka today said curfew in Dhaka metropolitan area will be relaxed from 0500 in the morning to 1700 in the afternoon tomorrow. All government and semigovernment offices, autonomous bodies, and nationalized banks in Dhaka metropolitan area will function till 1400 tomorrow. Meanwhile, curfew is now in force in Dhaka metropolitan area.

The curfew relaxation hours today ended at 1500 this afternoon. All government, semigovernment, and autonomous offices, including the nationalized banks, functioned till 1300 today. Schools and colleges in Dhaka metropolitan area remain closed till tomorrow.

Another announcement says that government has noticed that some interested forces in Dhaka and places in the country are spreading rumors. These baseless and motivated rumors are harmful to the nation and the state and must create confusion. The government has therefore appealed to all not to pay any heed to these baseless and harmful rumors.

Curfew Imposed on Chittagong After Violence

BK301617 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Curfew has been imposed in the [word indistinct] metropolitan area of Chittagong from 1400 this afternoon until further order. A press release issued by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police today said the curfew has been imposed for ensuring the safety and security of the life and property of the people of the port city and to restore law and order. The curfew will be relaxed for 2 hours from 1400 tomorrow.

The press release said in the name of hartal [strike] some rowdy elements started barricading roads, preventing government officials from attending duties and damaged a truck, public and private buildings this morning in Chittagong city. These elements brought out processions in different parts of the city in clear violation of martial law regulations.

The press release said the unruly mob started brickbatting the police on duty at Agrabad. In the face of extreme provocation, the law enforcing agencies showed great restraint. At one stage, the unruly mob at Sheikh Mujib Road tried to enter into some banks by breaking doors and windows. The crowd set fire to the police bus at Diwanghat and damaged another police bus at New Market. The press release added the police at first used tear gas to disperse the crowd and fired some blank shots when the crowd became more violent. As the situation did not return to normal and the agitators continued to provoke the crowd to be more violent, the police had to resort to firing to bring the situation under control. Two persons were injured. They are receiving treatment at the Chittagong Medical College.

AFP Report

BK010936 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 1 Dec 83

[By Richard Breeze]

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 1 (AFP) — Bangladesh's principal port of Chittagong remained paralysed under curfew today as the government banned an opposition daily in efforts to dampen further protests against the martial law regime.

Officials said a 24-hour curfew imposed yesterday on Chittagong, about 229 kms (130 miles) southeast of here, would be lifted for two hours at 3 p.m. (0900 GMT) today before being reimposed for an indefinite period. Chittagong, home of about a million people, was the scene of violent clashes between police and demonstrators yesterday.

Police said they were constrained to fire 34 rounds on two occasions to bring the situation under control in the city's Agrabad commercial district. Rioters set a small police post ablaze and tried to break into banks, they added. The police said three people were wounded in the incident, while normally reliable sources said one person was shot dead.

The curfew in Dhaka was lifted from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, but troops and frontier guards armed with rifles and automatic weapons continued to guard key points and mount motorised patrols through the city.

The government today announced the banning of the Bengali daily, *DAINIK DESH*, which is close to the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). This was the first time that the 20-month-old government of military leader Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad had banned a daily newspaper, observers noted. The newspaper has not appeared since Tuesday, when the government informed the management it would be banned.

Meanwhile, government officials failed to confirm reports here yesterday that the government had ordered the expulsion of 18 Soviet diplomats.

"I am not aware of any such decision," said a senior Foreign Ministry official who refused to be indentified.

Sources close to the government said yesterday that the government had told Moscow to reduce the size of its 36-man embassy here — the largest in Bangladesh.

Mujib's Daughter Under 'Protective Custody'

BK301621 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] An official statement in Dhaka today said Sheikh Hasina Wajed is under protective custody in her residence and is in good health.

All classes and examinations under the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, have been suspended until further orders. The residential halls of the university will also remain closed until further order. A press release of the university said all activities relating to the admissions to the university will also remain suspended.

Liberation Front Formation Condemned
BK301534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] In Dhaka, several political parties have condemned the establishment of a Bangladesh Liberation Front in India. This front has been established with the abominable aim of creating an independent Banglabhumi comprising Khulna, Barisal, and Faridpur Districts of Bangladesh. In Dhaka, the Progressive Democratic Force and the Labor Party have condemned this activity of a leftwing Indian communist leader, Madhok, describing it as a threat to the independence and integrity of Bangladesh.

According to Dhaka's *NEW NATION*, the leader of the Bangladesh Jama'at-e-Islamic Party has also expressed concern and anguish over the establishment of the front.

Gandhi, Jayewardene Discuss Tamil Issue

BK301607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] In New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene, discussed Sri Lanka's ethnic problem and the efforts being made for a political settlement. This is the second meeting between the two leaders after Mr Jayewardene arrived in the capital last week to attend the conference of Commonwealth heads of state. Mr Jayewardene is scheduled to return home tomorrow.

AFP: Assam Protesters Plan Hunger Strikes

BK301229 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 30 (AFP) — Anti-immigrant protestors in Assam have called for a mass rally-hunger strike across the troubled northeastern state from December 5 to protest against what they called police atrocities on the Assamese in the name of maintaining law and order.

The All-Assam Students Union and the Assam People's Action Council, co-sponsors of the four-year-old movement, gave the call immediately after a meeting in the Assamese capital of Gauhati late yesterday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said in a dispatch today.

The two organisations, representing the natives of Assam, the northeastern state bordering Bangladesh, have been pressing for detection and deportation of an unofficially estimated 5 million "illegal" settlers from Bangladesh and Nepal.

PTI quoted spokesman of the movement as saying that people from all walks of life, including students, would take part in the fasts.

The protest fasts would be held outside a large number of government offices and educational institutions, they told reporters.

Districts in Assam Declared 'Disturbed Areas'

BK010813 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] The Assam Government has declared several reserve areas in Jorhat and Sibsagar Districts as disturbed for further period of 6 months. In a press note in Gauhati, the state government has also declared the areas running parallel to railway lines along the Assam-Nagaland boundary in the two districts as disturbed.

Venkataraman Discusses Aircraft Manufacture

BK271716 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said that government has undertaken a program for the manufacture of light combat aircraft. Inaugurating the birth centenary of the late Seth Balchand Irachand at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited [HAL] at Bangalore today, he said this is one of the biggest defense programs taken up so far to meet the needs of the Indian Air Force in the 90's. Mr Venkataraman said an integrated design and development team has started work on the project. The state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics has been entrusted with the responsibility of designing, developing, and manufacturing this modern aircraft. The state chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, also attended the function.

Speaking to newsmen, the defense minister said the assembling of deep penetration strike aircraft at HAL is going on as per schedule. He said HAL will complete building 76 Jaguars by 1987.

INSAT-1C Satellite To Be Launched in June 1986

BK241505 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] India's next communication satellite, INSAT-1C, will be launched in June 1986. A spokesman of the Department of Space said in New Delhi today that all communication satellites after INSAT-1C will be wholly indigenously designed and built. INSAT-1C, like its predecessors INSAT-1A and INSAT-1B, will be built on an Indian design by the Ford Aerospace Corporation of the United States.

The spokesman said the Indian Space Research Organization, Bangalore, in south India, is already working on the design model of the communication satellite series known as INSAT-2.

Correction to Zambian President's News Conference

The following correction pertains to the item entitled, "Summit Participants' Interviews, News Conferences," subtitled,"Zambian President," published in the 29 November South Asia *DAILY REPORT* on page E 3:

Third paragraph, line 6, reads:—". . . situation in southern Africa, which in the last year has been marked by South African incusions into . . ." (supplying dropped words)

Fourth paragraph, line one, reads:—". . .already presented a (?distinct)education project for. . . ." (changing "distance" to "(?distinct)".

Ziaul Haq on Election Dates, Sind Situation

BK011105 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he woud make sure that power is transferred to the rightful hand at the appropriate time. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport today, he reaffirmed that the process of elections in the country would be completed by March 1985. About the timing of elections, he observed that March 1984 would be too early but October might not be very late. He pointed out that certain administrative arrangements and necessary atmosphere were essential before the exact date was decided. This also included the mandatory period of 72 days. It was already December but the government has yet to do a lot of other work before the start of the mandatory period. We must hold the elections sometime or the other, the sooner the better. However, in the process we do not want to destabilize the whole situation.

The president said he wanted to make sure that stability and continuity in any eventuality were maintained and what we have done is continued. He would see that the direction they had set was not upset unless (? absolutely necessary). He clarified that by continuity he meant the continuity of their policy.

About the holding of elections on a nonparty basis, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that in his own view there was no place for the political parties as they existed today in an Islamic system.

Secondly, in an Islamic system a candidate must have a lot of qualities. Thirdly, under the circumstances (?unless) solemnly announced that he was available for the services of the people then doubts naturally would emerge about his intentions.

About the law and order situation in Sind and other parts of the country, the president said by the grace of God it was now much better than what it was before. He said that the government now was giving more attention to the administrative affairs. This did not mean that the political matters have been left aside. He hoped there will be visible improvement as a result of more attention to the administrative matters.

In this connection he referred to his visit to different departments in Islamabad, including the Secretariat of the Wafaqi Muhtasib [Ombudsman]. He appreciate the performance of the Wafaqi Muhtasib and asked the newsmen to [word indistinct] and project its performance.

Replying to a question about giving more powers to Wafaqi Muhtasib, he said they intended to extend its jurisdiction to Islamabad and northern areas as well.

Officials Discuss Basis for Elections

GF281058 Lahore JANG in Urdu 3 Nov 83 p 1, 8

[By JANG correspondent]

[Excerpts] Islamabad — Seven members of the National Advisory Council have stressed the necessity of holding elections on a party basis during 1984. Two other members have said that while elections are a must, it is not essential that they be held on a party basis.

The council members expressed their views in an exclusive talk with this *JANG* correspondent. One member from Sialkot, Mr Naimur Rahman said that any elections held on nonparty basis will be injurious to the country. With regard to amending the Constitution, he said that no basic change is warranted, but it is necessary to add amendments to it which would prove beneficial to the country. He called for early elections but also said that any delay would not change matters much. However, he urged, that elections for both the provincial and national assemblies be held at the same time.

Council member from (Shaikhupura), Chowdhry Manzoor Hussain, said that elections should be held on a nonparty basis. Because, he said, not all political parties have been registered and that includes the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the National Democratic Party (NDP). If these parties are not included, a wave of antigovernment propaganda may begin which might be harmful to the interests of the country.

Council member Seyyed Mukhtar Hussain said that elections should be held on a party basis. This was essential because Pakistan itself was founded through party efforts. All those parties believing in Islamic values should be allowed to take part in elections, he said.

Council member from Faisalabad, Mohammad Shafiq, said elections should be held on a party basis. However, elections on a nonparty basis would also be useful since they will help to end martial law and restore democracy. Any amendments to the Constitution should be left to be adopted by the next elected assembly, he said. A balance of powers between the president and the prime minister should be established through an amendment.

Delhi Reports New Violence in Sind Province

BK010805 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] In Sind Province of Pakistan, there have been clashes between antigovernment demonstrators and the police in Khairpur and Larkana. There are reports of some explosions in Larnaka, but there are no injuries. In many areas in the province, shops and markets were closed in response to a general strike call given by the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. Prisoners also joined in the protest by refusing food.

MASHRIQ Expresses Concern Over Soviet Presence

GF010856 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 15 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Afghanistan — What Next?"]

[Excerpt] The presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan has a far-reaching affect on the political and geographical situation of not only South Asia and the Middle East but of the entire region. About a century ago, the Soviet Union was 2,000 miles from Pakistan's western borders. By the beginning of the 20th Cen-

tury, this distance had been reduced to 500 miles, and now only the flimsy partition of the Durand Line lies between the two, which Soviet-backed rulers like Bakrak Karmal are bent upon obliterating.

The present situation in Afghanistan is highly dangerous, particularly for Pakistan. The firm Soviet grip on Afghanistan has created a growing unrest and concern in the minds of the Islam-loving Afghans. Moreover, the arrival of more than 3 million Afghan refugees this side of the Durand Line (this stream of Afghan arrivals is continuing) has created a situation which could not be interpreted as being a good sign for Pakistan's domestic stability, security, and economy, since it is a highly dangerous state of affairs. This situation has been further worsened by the violation of Pakistan's airspace and the bombardment of its towns by Soviet aircraft.

MASHRIQ Views Talks on Afganistan Issue

17 November Commentary

GF261902 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 17 Nov 83 P 4

[Commentary by Dr Abdus Salam Khorshid: "Cold War Between Soviet Union and United States Will Prolong Afghanistan Issue"]

[Text] UN representative Diego Cordovez has denied U.S. magazine claim that because of his disappointment at the apparently unsuccessful talks on the Afghanistan issue, he has resigned from his assignment. He said there has been considerable progress in the talks and that at the present stage, the talks will tackle the key problems. He said there were ups and downs in the talks. The participants in the talks have to decide whether the diplomatic measures taken in this respect were the appropriate ones or not. Although there are no signs of disappointment and despair in Cordovez' words, it is clear that things have reached an impoasse at this stage of the talks. The cause for this is apparent. The initiative is no longer in the hands of two Muslim countries, but is now in the hands of the two superpowers. We need the Soviet Union's agreement to set up a withdrawal timetable for its forces and we need guarantees of nonintervention and safeguards from the United States. Both of these things are connected with each other and depend on each other, but due to world politics and differences between the United States and Soviet Union no understanding on the question of Afghanistan has been possible.

The possible blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the open threats of the United States and other Western countries, the suspenison of missile talks in Geneva, protests on American intervention in Grenada, and several similar problems have dragged the superpowers into a cold war with each other, and unless and until there is a change in their hearts and an understanding is reached between them, the question of Afghanistan will continue to remain unresolved.

In any case, Pakistan and Afghanistan cannot wait for an indefinite period for the solution to this issue. After all, how long can Pakistan bear the burden of 3 million Afghan refugees? Moreover, the presence across our borders of such a huge Soviet force is not a good omen either. On the other hand, how long can Afghanistan endure a civil war? Most certainly this country also needs peace. The presence of the Soviet Army is not a matter of pride for Afghanistan nor it is palatable to the world, not to mention the disgrace of losing 20 percent of its population as refugees. Perhaps, it would be better for these two powers to reach a decision which is honorable to both of them and resolves this issue. If this happens, the Soviet Union will be honor bound to withdraw its forces gradually.

Superpowers have global interests and they look at a regional problems in the light of their own global interests. Therefore, a regional problem is not as important to them as it is for the countries of that region. In such circumstances, it is far better that such problems be solved by the parties concerned. It is no use making the problem more complicated through superpower intervention. This is the attitude which will solve the Afghanistan problem. Most probably, the peaceful efforts of Cordovez are also heading toward this end.

22 November Editorial

GF261200 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 22 Nov 83 P 4

[Editorial: "Stage of Testing Soviet Sincerity"]

[Text] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is justified in saying that efforts to find a peaceful solution rests on the basic condition of withdrawal of Soviet armies. If the Soviet Union, as it has promised, sets up a timetable for the withdrawal of its forces, then a solution to the Afghanistan problem can easily be found, which would be acceptable to all parties and which could be acted upon by all parties concerned. The Afghan problem is about to be taken up by the UN General Assembly and the world community will do all it can to make the Soviet Union agree to withdraw its forces.

The next round of talks will be successful only if the Soviet Union, as promised, presents a program for the withdrawal of its forces. According to Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the next round of talks will be a test of Soviet sincerity. Pakistan is justified in wishing that the Soviet Union will try its best to be successful in this test. Pakistan supports the safeguards and the international guarantees demanded by the Soviet Union. The guarantees demanded by the Soviet Union could be arranged at the international level but the Soviet Union should know that it can neither suppress the Afghan people on the basis of its military strength nor can it keep its puppet government in control over Afghanistan.

While speaking on the Afghan problem, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the situation in Afghanistan has become suspended. He also opined that a military solution of this problem by any party does not seem to be possible in the near future. The Afghan mujahidin, on the one hand, in spite of their extraordinary determination, steadfastness, and historical resistance, are not capable of removing the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and, on the other hand, the Soviet Union in spite of its military presence has not succeeded in crushing the Afghan resistance movement. Thus, it is more than clear that a military solution to the Afghan question is not possible and that all parties concerned should try for its peaceful solution.

Briefs

Norwegian Assistance — The Norwegian Government has agreed to give 66 million rupees to Pakistan to help in the installation next year of integrated telecommunication facilities at 164 more grid stations under the secondary transmission and grid station plan of the Water and Power Development Authority [WAPDA]. The five-member Norwegian economic aid delegation called on the WAPDA chairman in Lahore yesterday and discussed WAPDA's future plans in the field of telecommunications. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 27 Nov 83 BK]

NEPAL

Trade Program Concluded With CSSR Delegation

BK270926 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] A visiting Czechoslovak trade delegation concluded a short-term import and export trade program with the Nepalese officials and left for home on 22 November. The delegation was in Katmandu to implement the trade and payment agreement signed between Nepal and Czechoslovakia [words indistinct] January-February last year, according to a press release issued on 22 November by the Commerce Ministry.

Under the short term import and export trade program concluded in Katmandu, Nepal will export 30 million rupees worth of goods to Czechoslovakia and import the same amount of goods, mainly machinery and other capital goods, from Czechoslovakia. Nepal will export goods made of jute, woolen carpets, herbs, tanned leather, ready-made clothes [words indistinct], and other goods to Czechoslovakia.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene on Consultations Over Tamil Issue

BK011411 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] is prepared to give up its call for a separate state if a solution of the Tamil problem acceptable to them is worked out, according to information available to the president.

President Jayewardene, on his return from New Delhi today, issued a press statement in which he recalled that he had made it clear that he could resume any discussion with the TULF, discuss the possible line for the solution only if they did not (?remain firm) for a separate state. The president had consultations on this matter with various political leaders in Sri Lanka.

The special envoy of the prime minister of India, Mr G. Parthasarathy, had also discussed this matter with President Jayewardene during Mr Parthasarathy's visit to Sri Lanka and in India.

President Jayewardene, while in New Delhi to attend the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government, also had an opportunity to discuss the problem of Sri Lanka Tamils in the country with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The president said that the Government of India had stated in clear terms that India is against secession and stands for the independence, integrity, and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

Mr G. Parthasarathy, special envoy of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has had discussions with the members of the TULF who are in New Delhi, and has obtained their response to the proposal that has emerged as a result of the discussions in Colombo in November.

Mr Jayewardene in his statement further stated that he would first consult all political parties in Sri Lanka on the modalities of summoning an all-party conference to discuss these proposals. (?As soon as) the modalities for this conference are proposed, they should communicate to all parties the various proposals that had emerged. This would give them an opportunity to study the proposals before participating in the conference. Therefore, the president proposes to summon a conference of political parties at which these proposals will be discussed.

Delhi Cites Minister's Comments on Tamils

BK261608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The Sri Lanka minister for rural industial development, Mr Thondaman, has said that the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] leadership should take a postive decision on the proposals evolved by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's envoy, Mr G. Parthasarathy.

In an interview with PTI in Madras today, he said the differences between President Jayewardene and the TULF leadership have considerably narrowed down. It now revolves around one point — whether there should be one regional council for the entire traditional Tamil areas or two provincial councils for the Tamil dominated northern and eastern provinces.

Fisheries Company Established With PRC

BK301203 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] China and Sri Lanka have established a fisheries company. A contract was signed in Colombo this week. The Fisheries Corporation of Sri Lanka has contributed 51 percent of the capital. The balance has been contributed by the China International Engineering Corporation for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries. The joint venture, known as the (? Lanhua) Fisheries Company, will operate in Sri Lanka in the fields of marine fishing, marine products, processing, and the culture of fish and prawns for the local and export markets.

Early this year, a field survey was carried out by the Chinese on the fisheries resources in Sri Lanka. The minister of fisheries, Festus Perera, and the Chinese ambassador in Sri Lanka were present when the contract was signed. This is the first joint enterprise between the two countries. It is expected to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries by developing fishery production in Sri Lanka.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,559

LD301816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,559 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our dear compatriots hereby are informed of the situation on the fronts of the imposed war.

Sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on most fronts in the northwest between our mighty combatants and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. In defending their own positions, our forces subjected enemy positions and units to their heavy fire; by crushing any operational activities by the Saddamist forces, they destroyed or put out of action nine of their vehicles and annihilated a number of Saddamist mercenary servicemen.

On the country's western fronts, Islam's mighty combatants continued to consolidate their defensive positions and answered the enemy's artillery and heavy weapons fire.

In the exchanges on these fronts, the intensity of fire was greater in the Meymak and Nowsud regions than elsewhere. On these fronts, our forces dispatched patrol groups and set up observation posts, thus controlling the movements and traffic of enemy units. They opened fire on the positions and fortifications of the Saddamist forces, silencing their fire and halting the enemy's engineering activities and traffic in the region. They also destroyed a number of Iraqi positions and several of their vehicles, killing a number of enemy servicemen.

On the country's southern fronts, exchanges of fire continued between our proud combatants and the aggressive enemy. The fire was even more intense in the Faqih, Sharhani, and Pichangizeh region. Our combatants with their defensive moves and by deploying patrol groups kept under surveillance with the utmost vigilance enemy movements and traffic. By opening fire on enemy positions and fortifications, they inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries and checked their movements.

On one of the southern fronts, our patrol groups penetrated enemy defensive regions and delivered blows to the Iraqi forces and, on their return, seized an appreciable number of RPG-7's and war grenades left behind by the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, our Gendarmerie combatants fired in retaliation on the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries, setting fire to and destroying a number of their trenches and observation posts.

The city of Abadan suffered losses as a number of houses and shops were damaged by the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Musavi Describes 27 November Cabinet Session

LD271337 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting today; it was chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, could you please tell us about the issues raised at today's Cabinet meeting, including the highlights of the 1984-85 budget which is to be presented to the Majlis?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As usual, we debated some political reports. We raised issues related to the situation in Lebanon and to domestic matters. We then dealt with reports presented by the various government commissions. As for the backlog of decrees and bills, thank God, we managed to attend to them and adopt appropriate decisions with some speed. Apart from these issues, clauses in the budget were read out, and the final budget figures were finally specified. God willing, the budget will be presented to the Majlis this week.

As for the budget figures, I would like to mention them here. For revenue, the total figure amounts to 3,909 billion rials, of which 2,051 billion are in cash and 870 billion in taxes. Then there are new revenues which have been worked out and amount to about 550 billion rials. [figures as heard] As for expenditure, the total amounts to 4,228 billion rials, of which 2,644 billion relate to current expenditures, including 35 billion tomans [one toman equals 10 rials] for the war. Needless to say, when we quote a figure of 35 billion tomans for the war we ought to bear in mind that, in accordance with a clause in the budget bill, this figure may be increased up to 50 billion tomans. Incidentally, before I proceed further I ought to point out that the war has been given full and complete priority in the budget. On the basis of available figures, about 30 percent of last year's budget has, in some form, been geared to the war. The same proportion will, I believe, hold true in the current year.

For development, 1,366 billion [as heard] rials are allocated for this purpose, including 10 billion tomans for reconstruction. With regard to the budget deficit, it amounts to about 312 billion rials, which is slightly lower than that of last year's and which shows the government's approach. All in all, the budget, in the light of combined development and current budget, seems to be condensed. Attempts have been made to anticipate the necessary minimum amounts. At any rate, the existing figure is the one we have concluded.

As for the clauses in the budget, there are about 76 of them, to which 4 or 5 more were added today. Consequently, it has around 80 clauses. This would give the budget some sort of flexibility, enabling it to be absorbed and making it possible for the various organs to carry out their tasks.

[Correspondent] When it comes to activities, which sectors will be given priority?

[Musavi] Priorities have already been summed up in a circular sent to various government ministries. What is in question now is the breakdown of figures and clauses. As we have already

stated, we still give the matter of war high priority, it influences nearly the entire budget. This is something which ought to be borne in mind. Then there are the issues of agriculture and the infrastructure, which also are given priorities. The form and structure of the budget are such that we can claim to be able to give direction to general revenues toward the deprived areas. In this connection, I believe that 10 billion tomans have been allocated for the reconstruction crusade budget. There are other figures as well.

[Correspondent] As for the Cabinet reshuffle and new ministers, when do you think the new ministers will be presented to the Majlis?

[Musavi] The legal grace period ends this week. We will try to introduce the new ministers, God willing, this week.

Cabinet Appoints Broadcasting Officials

LD301313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session today in the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. After a review of current developments and the situation on the fronts of the imposed war, Hojjat ol-Eslkam Mohsen Do'agu and Mohammad Hasan Zowraq were selected as the main representative and acting representative of the executive in the supervisory council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today's Cabinet session also continued its review of the distribution bill.

Reports on Spanish Commerce Secretary's Visit

LD271203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Sr Velasco, Spain's secretary of state for commerce, who is in Tehran leading a trade delegation, this morning met and had talks with Commerce Minister Ja'fari. During the meeting, also attended by a group of our country's high-ranking economic and trade experts in various fields of industry, agriculture, roads, energy, and hygiene, the commerce minister expounded the foundations and principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its successes, which increase every day, in strengthening our country's political stability. He said: The foundations for expanding our trade with other countries are based on mutual respect and accepting our country's religious and revolutionary rules.

The Spanish secretary of state for commerce stated Spain's position with regard to political and economic cooperation toward the Islamic Republic of Iran: On the basis of these criteria the two countries' economic and trade relations have enjoyed increasing expansion, particularly during the past year.

Through 11 separate committees the delegation will study the problems and solutions connected with expanding economic and trade relations between Iran and Spain.

Meeting With Transport Officials

LD271752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Spanish minister of state in charge of trade, who has come to Iran at the head of a trade delegation, this afternoon met and conferred with the under secretary of the Ministry of Roads and Transport and with the head of Iranian Railways. At this meeting, the Spanish minister of state elaborated on the technical and technological capabilities of his country in making railway carriages and providing the equipment and parts needed by our country's railways and announced Spain's readiness to cooperate and meet these needs. The under secretary of the Ministry of Roads and Transport explained the present situation of our country's railways and elaborated on the first 5-year plan to extend the railways and equipment and transport capacity.

At the end of this meeting, it was agreed that a delegation from Iranian Railways should visit that country to acquire more information and to study Spain's technical capabilities.

Meeting With Industries Minister

GF281551 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — A Spanish delegation headed by the country's state minister in economic affairs, Luis de Velasco held talks with Iranian minister of heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi here today.

According to an announcement from the ministry the parties discussed industrial and technical cooperation particularly with regards to a ship building project in the Persian Gulf and a project for manufacturing land rovers which are currently in their preliminary stages.

The Spanish delegation arrived here for talks with Islamic republic officials on Saturday November 26.

Discussion on Economic Cooperation

GF291625 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA — The Spanish Government is ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of agriculture announced Mr. Luis de Velasco, Spain's secretary of state for commerce in a meeting with Dr. Abbas 'Ali Zali, a high ranking official of the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry today.

In this meeting Mr. Zali said that with the experience that Spain has in the agricultural field, Iran was ready to cooperate in various agricultural fields based on the mutual benefit of the two nations.

In another development today, the Spanish official and his accompanying delegation called on Mostafa Hashemi, the Iranian industries minister. In this meeting Hashemi said that Spain by not participating in the economic sanctions imposed on Iran showed that by creating an equitable and independent relation with Iran, mutual cooperation could be attained.

The Iranian official further said that the Islamic Republic was willing to expand its economic ties with all friendly countries and not merely limit its economic cooperation with a few countries. He also noted that efforts were made to create a free and independent economic and political policy specially with regards to the Iranian industries.

Mostafa Hashemi also expressed hope that such an exchange of knowledge and expertise would further strengthen the prevailing ties between the two countries.

Mr de Velasco expressed a desire of his delegation to get better acquainted with the culture of the Islamic Revolution.

Talks With Velayati

LD292227 Tehran IRNA in English 2006 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran Nov. 29, IRNA — Luis de Velasco, the Spanish minister of state for commercial affairs, today held talks with Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the meeting the two parties expressed satisfaction on the existing trend in relations between the two countries especially in industrial fields and stressed on further expansion of cultural and economic ties.

Luis de Velasco who is here at the head of a high-ranking Spanish delegation also announced his country's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran on a larger scale.

The Spanish delegation arrived in Tehran on Saturday and met with a number of Iranian officials.

Memorandum of Understanding

LD301345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Text] Spanish Secretary of State for Commerce Velasco last night met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

The possibility of the expansion of bilateral relations in various fields was discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by the two countries' ambassadors. Mr Velasco praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's great successes in the economic field. Emphasizing the Muslims' historic relations with Spain and the influence of Islamic culture in that country, Mr Musavi referred to the existing backgrounds for the expansion of relations between the two countries. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Spanish secretary of state for commerce expressed his hope for the fruitfulness of his visit to our country.

After talks were concluded with several of our country's high-ranking officials, the Spanish economic and trade delegation signed a memorandum of understanding today and left Tehran for Madrid. The memorandum was signed on behalf of Spain by Mr Luis de Velasco and on behalf of Iran by Commerce Minister Ja'fari.

When the memorandum of understanding was signed, in the presence of the Spanish ambassador to Iran and the Iranian ambassador to Spain, Mr Ja'fari expressed hope that the signing of this memorandum of understanding would be an introduction to the expansion of all-round relations between the two countries.

Official Meets Australian Agriculture Minister

GF171556 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA — The visiting Australian Agriculture Minister John Kerin, in a meeting with the acting minister of agriculture and rural development Hassan Tabataba'e here today, announced willingness of his country for cooperation with Iran in the fields of agricultural research, exchange of information and livestock products.

The acting minister of agriculture told the visiting Australian minister, who arrived in Tehran Wednesday night heading a delegation, that Iran was ready to cooperate with friendly countries on the basis of mutual interests of both nations.

Furthermore during the meeting the acting minister of agriculture explained the destructive agricultural policies of the former regime which pushed the country towards dependence on imported agricultural items. He also informed the Australian minister of agriculture of achievements of the country after the victory of the Feb. 79 Islamic Revolution. He said that despite all the problems including imposition of economic sanctions on Iran and the Iraqi imposed war, big gains have been made.

Iran's exports to Australia last year amounted to 75.478 million Australian dollars. At the same time Iran's import from Australia was 242.818 million Australian dollars, which included wheat, meat and industrial and agricultural machinery.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Views U.S. Middle East Policy

GF301533 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Unsuccessful Diplomacy — Washington, Final Loser"]

[Excerpts] Will the United States, on the excuse of avenging itself and to intimidate Syria by taking strong measure against its forces, which have a legal right to be in Lebanon, open fire again on Muslim residential areas in Lebanon? Will it be logical in these circumstances for the United States to fly over Beirut, bombard the Muslims, and then expect to remain immune from the retaliatory attacks of the Muslims?

Although the United States is ignorant of the essence of the resistance in Lebanon and depth of the wrath and hatred and also of the piled up animosity of the Lebanese Muslims against the invading and foreign forces, this ignorance does not prevent Lebanese Muslims from taking revenge and from blowing up the headquarters of the American interfering forces. We agree that the identity of the Islamic resistance front in Lebanon is in an

aura of vagueness owing to its complicated structure and owing to its unknown peculiarities, but will the threat of Mr McFarlane to turn Lebanon into a new Grenada help him in coming to know this huge and deeply rooted phenomenon?

Without seeing a need for knowing the Islamic resistance front, Washington hopes it can end this painful Western tragedy simply by crushing all the Muslim residential areas in Lebanon. Doesn't the Lebanese nation in these circumstances have the right to make an effort to destroy the forces which are determined to turn its homeland into dust and blood and, above all, also have decided to transform the Islamic identity of this land? The reply of every nation would be positive, even though the White House security adviser may not be able to understand the reason thereof.

Now let us question whether there are other reasons for the Washington propaganda attack against Syria.

The answer is that it would seem a very remote possibility that while Lebanon is in a painful nightmare, the United States would indulge in another risk simply to try to find out its chances in Syria. During the very days when it was decided to send American Marines to Lebanon, the White House announced that the Marines would be in Lebanon for at the most about a month. This announcement meant that Washington thought that the Lebanon question would be over within a month. But recently, about a year after that announcement, more than 230 bodies of the American invading force have been airlifted to Washington. Have the American politicians resolved the Lebanon issue so they can now turn to Syria?

American diplomacy, which has repeatedly been facing new and unforeseen setbacks, is now not even able to hold a reconciliation conference in Lebanon to bring about an understanding among the fronts concerned or to get such a conference, if held, to do anything worthwhile. In these circumstances, how can the United States rein in the huge results of its new policies and save the ship of this country from the storm-stricken Middle East policy which is foundering in the whirlpool of events? The American Middle East policy has reached a dead end, but the situation has become so serious that this deadlock cannot be opened even by the lead bullets, propaganda bombardment, or even by a full-fledged war. The reason is that the calculations and factors effective in the victory, or defeat of the armies and policies in the Middle East, are quite different than in other parts of the world.

We can say in no time that on the eve of the presidential elections the real aim of the American politicians in all political and military matters of this country is that the American warmonger front could again bring into their own hands the levers of power in the United States. They are thinking of the next elections and they are quite prepared to drag the world to the brink of war simply to safeguard their own positions. They seem to have done this already.

There is no corner of the world which, if a war breaks out, is not claimed by American politicians as an area of vital interests to the United States of America. In spite of all this, such military tactics will not give Mr Reagan the slightest help in his reelection. The American politicians know full well this reality that in every war which takes place in the Middle East, Washington will be the final loser. It would be better if Mr Reagan and his friends in the Republican Party resort to rigging elections and setting up another Watergate, activities in which the Republicans excel.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Arms Policy

GF291600 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Reagan administration, which leans on the arms industry, is appearing on the political arena with military ways and means. Ever since it has occupied the White House, it has been increasing the military budget, thus giving momentum to the pace of rearmament — taking measures in the meantime to destroy people with new arms every day.

The U.S. budget for 1984 was approved by congress last week. The vote was 311 for and 99 against. Reagan was given the go ahead to take steps to consolidate the arms factories. This budget totals $249 billion and is different than the budget allocated for chemical arms. It is $11 billion less than what Reagan originally asked for. However, it is very much higher than last year's budget.

The U.S. budget has been passed at a time when there are 12 million poverty-stricken people in the EEC and opposition to nuclear arms based in Europe is growing. Nevertheless, those in the White House are ignoring this and trying to impose their will, demanding from them, in the meantime, not to stand against their wishes.

(?In addition to the nuclear arms deployed in Europe), they are selling various types of modern arms to the world in order to have peoples crushed. They have sold $18.3 billion worth of arms during the 1983 fiscal year. The arms the United States has sold to [name indistinct] total just under $3.3 billion. Next comes Saudi Arabia with a total of $2.6 billion [words indistinct].

The military budget of the United States and the economic aid that country gives to militarist regimes and to its agents in addition to the arms supplies (?indicate the desire the White House has to remove opposition and undermine independent countries).

Seda-ye Iran Reports on Arms Suppliers

GF201034 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Nov 83

[Text] According to informed sources, the Islamic Republic of Iran has purchased 40 percent of its arms valued at $2 billion during the past year from North Korea. Another 10 percent of Iran's arms was purchased from Israel, Syria, Libya, China, and on international black markets.

42 Sentenced to Death on Drug Charges

LD301354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Excerpt] According to an IRNA report, the antinarcotics headquarters of the Islamic Revolution court in Tehran has announced that as a result of continuing efforts by the self-sacrificing brothers in the antinarcotics headquarters of the Islamic Revolution court in Tehran, and by the police, the Gendarmerie, and the 14 committees, during the past month, a total of 368.15 kg of various types of narcotics were seized in Tehran and other cities.

In this connection, 1,812 people were arrested and after their files were investigated in various branches of this court the following verdicts were issued: 1,321 people were sentenced to less than 1-year imprisonment, 350 people were sentenced to 1-10 years imprisonment, 97 people, from 10-25 years, and 2 people, to life imprisonment. Also, 42 people were sentenced to death and their files were sent to higher courts for final verdicts.

NVOI Views Forthcoming Trial of Tudeh Leaders

TA302020 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 30 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Trial of Tudehis Amid Conditions of Terror and Repression"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: According to officials of the army's prosecutor general office, trials of leaders of the Iranian Tudeh Party will start shortly. We all know that despite the principles stipulated in our country's Constitution, about 10 months ago rulers of the Islamic Republic cowardly and insidiously, and with the same medieval approach of deceitful and two-faced hypocrites, assaulted nightly the homes of members of the Iranian Tudeh Party. They not only arrested them but in some cases they also arrested all members of their families.

The Iranian Tudeh Party, even months before the detention of the party's leaders and members, warned the Iranian nation that elements of the United States and of major capitalists and landlords are acting frantically to assume total power. The Iranian Tudeh Party could not remain silent in the face of the treachery by rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the revolution and people. The Islamic Republic's rulers and their U.S. and British masters also see as their main and primary foes the Iranian Tudeh Party and other progressive and dissenting forces.

The Government and leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran were given an option of either taking the side of the people, the revolution and the genuine revolutionary forces, and agreeing to implement all their promises, or diverting public opinion by launching a brutal onslaught against the genuine revolutionary forces, particularly the Iranian Tudeh Party, and by fabricating dossiers and charges in the style of SAVAK, the CIA, and the intelligence service. The Islamic leadership chose the latter option and started an offensive against the Iranian Tudeh Party by compiling dossiers against leaders and members of this party.

To justify this crime, rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched disgusting television shows which aroused the indignation and hatred of Muslims against them. The people saw that rulers of the Islamic Republic, to justify their crimes, are ready to violate all moral and human principles and to succumb to every sort of meanness and baseness.

The specter of death, repression, and terror engulfed our homeland. Amid such a climate of fear, terror, and inquisition in which no trace whatsoever of freedom has remained, rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran want to start the trial of the imprisoned Tudehis.

Recognizing the ploys of rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our homeland's people and world public opinion rightly demand that the trial of the imprisoned Tudehis be held in an open competent court in the presence of a neutral international delegation, lawyers of the accused, relatives of the imprisoned Tudehis, and the people.